



**USAID** | **Haiti**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# Community Development Program for Caracol - EKAM Housing Project

Quarterly Report – January-March 2016



A newly elected platform committee



# USAID Haiti

## Community Development Program for Caracol – EKAM Housing Project

FY 2016 Q2 PROGRESS REPORT  
(JANUARY 1, 2016 to MARCH 31, 2016)

Award No: CA No. AID-521-A-00-13-00010  
Total estimated federal funding: \$4,819,694 USD  
Project Dates: August 7, 2013 – September 30, 2016

Prepared for Robert Helmerick  
United States Agency for International Development/Haiti  
Housing and Urban Development Advisor  
C/O American Embassy of Port-au-Prince

Prepared by  
Global Communities  
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 300 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3440 USA

### DISCLAIMER

The authors' views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

## **Acronyms and Abbreviations**

<b>CAEPA</b>	Water Supply and Sanitation Committee
<b>CBO</b>	Community-Based Organization
<b>CDP</b>	Community Development Program
<b>CMC</b>	Community Management Committee
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>EPPLS</b>	Entreprise Publique de Promotion de Logements Sociaux
<b>INDEPCO</b>	National Institute for the Promotion and Development of Sewing
<b>GOH</b>	Government of Haiti
<b>GOLSA</b>	GOL Sanitation
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>PACE</b>	Participatory Action for Community Enhancement
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>WASH</b>	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

## **Community Development Program (CDP): Executive Summary**

Global Communities was awarded the Community Development Program (CDP) for Caracol, also known as the EKAM Housing Project, on August 7, 2013. This report covers the activities and achievements under CDP in the second quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2016 (January 1 to March 31 2016).

### **Qualitative Summary**

The USAID-funded CDP aims to develop a sustainable social housing village where residents, stakeholders and partners have an equal sense of ownership. Previously, the program concentrated on the management of daily life in the social housing village. With CDP facilitation, residents of Caracol attended Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) trainings to improve hygiene and sanitation, elected the Community Management Committee (CMC) to plan and oversee housing activities (such as Carnival), to be spokesperson of residents and to represent them, and developed a land-use plan that would drive business and economic development in the village and surrounding areas. This quarter, CDP focused on informing residents about the upcoming work sites, developing residential spaces, and indirectly electing the CMC.

Our partner, the Entreprise Publique de Promotion de Logements Sociaux (EPPLS), in the Government of Haiti's social housing agency, continues to work with us in close collaboration.. The EPPLS administration used this and interaction to encourage residents to pay their bills by visiting them, calling them and raise their awareness on the importance to pay rent to benefit from services (trash removal, public lightening...). In addition Global Communities continued to support the EPPLS in managing the village. This support took various forms, including motivating the residents to pay their bills, improving security, evicting residents and monitoring the program.

### **Quantitative Summary**

Various accomplishments throughout the quarter include:

- Five representatives for each commission were elected;
- the renewal of CMC (the members are the presidents of the commissions);
- A community-based activity called "Carnival" was organized by the commissions;
- 27.3% of residents paid their rent on time (44.71% between one and three months);
- 32.3% of residents paid the water on time (52.4% between one and three months).

### **Constraints and Opportunities**

Global Communities and EPPLS continue to sensitize residents on the need to improve the appearance of their platforms, for example through regular cleaning. However, it is important to keep in mind that upcoming site repairs make investments in the platform difficult due to the fact that some pipes and septic tanks situated in the middle of the platform will be replaced. Final drawings are not yet approved.

S&A, a Korean company operating in the industrial park, has begun construction of a secondary school in December, 2015 on a plot of land provided to them by EPPLS. This school will open in September 2016 and will welcome the students who finished their primary education in the S&A village school. In order to develop a partnership for livelihoods development, Global Communities provided S&A with a list of residents who have technical skills in masonry, plumbing, carpentry, and other areas of construction, resulting in 20 newly recruited residents by S&A.

### **Subsequent Quarter's Work Plan**

In the subsequent quarter the CDP program focused on:

- Supporting EPPLS teams
- Designing a plan for land use in empty spaces
- Utilizing vacant spaces (cultural center, tap-tap station, playground for children, etc...)
- Promoting and renting residential plots
- The visit of an USAID delegation to introduce the new Country Director of the Program

Other key activities for next quarter will include:

- Participatory Action for Community Enhancement (PACE) trainings to...
  - Improve livelihood opportunities
  - Foster public-private partnerships
  - Solve sewage and technical problems
  - Allocate a market space to selected entrepreneurs
  - Allocate a plot to individuals interested in building private houses

### **Governance and Community Relations**

#### ***Water Bill Payments***

The community mobilizers continued sensitizing the residents to the concept of paid services. This process aimed to avoid eviction and disconnection of water services by emphasizing the importance of timely payment of service fees. Additionally, the program highlighted the benefits available when residents paid their bills, which include waste removal, security and public space maintenance.

In January, 22.7 % of residents paid their water bills on time and in-full, 32.74% in February, and 42.5% in March. In summary, this quarter 32.3% of residents paid their water bills on time and in full. In comparison, the average for the previous quarter was 17.4%. The rate of water payments increased a lot because of a stronger sensitization of the mobilization team helped by the new platform committees. Concerning the rate of rent payments, they increased too. Moreover the Global Communities staff focused on the capacity building (financial, data entry, monitoring, etc...) of the CAEPA staff. They are now very efficient in registering the payment of water bills that will provide quicker, more efficient access to information for the field team using the new system implemented in November 2015.

#### ***Community Meetings***

This quarter, 23 platforms held meetings to explain residents about the future site work (especially the work made on the house) and the house assessment made by DFS Construction. After the meetings, a total of 439 houses were assessed. Mobilization team highlighted the importance to refer to the platform committee for any question or information. They also raised awareness on the importance of paying rent and water during these meetings.

### ***Community Management Committee (CMC) Meetings***

Global Communities organized the first meetings with the newly renewed CMC in January 2016. The CMC was informed of all the current and coming activities, and discuss about their role and function. They also chose a date for their introduction to the residents and stakeholders of the area.

### ***Operational Support for the EPPLS Site Team EPPLS Trainings***

Global Communities supported and collaborated with EPPLS from the beginning of the program. EPPLS communicated with CMC members and mobilization teams to address unpaid rent so the CMC and mobilization teams can motivate residents to make on-time payments. Residents were also urged to participate in relevant meetings and take part in the decision-making processes. Global Communities and EPPLS also jointly updated the data on the number of occupied houses, payment status and percentages of on-time payments. The staff also participated in a training titled “introduction to M&E”. This training resulted in a greater sense of efficiency among the staff.

### ***Conflicts and Issues***

No issues were registered this quarter. The security guards ensured optimal safety during the Carnival which took place without any issues.

### ***Site Management and Services Rent Payment and Eviction***

Thanks to the mobilizers and the platform committees there were no evictions this quarter and the payment rate increased significantly. The rate of on-time rent payments in January went up to 24.43%, 25.8% in February and 31.7% in March. Despite a weakening national economy and political turmoil, residents demonstrated a strong will to continue paying the rent.

### ***Public Spaces***

EPPLS trucks collect and remove trash from the village on a daily basis. During this quarter, 15 residents who have faced difficulties paying their rent were recruited to remove the trash and clean the public spaces. The criteria of selection, as mentioned, would require that the recipient is unemployed and has not paid rent for an extended amount of time. The objective is to help residents pay their rent on time.

### ***Septic Tank Maintenance***

This quarter 20 septic tanks were emptied by GOL Sanitation (GOLSA), the firm recruited by EPPLS. The septic tanks fill very quickly every time rain falls due to poor percolation within the tanks. This issue will be fixed by the repairs made by DFS Construction.

### ***Commissions***

In February, various commissions including the Sports Commission, Gender Commission, and Security Commission convened to create a committee to plan the Carnival. The committee worked hard to propose an activity for all of the residents (adults and younger).



Carnival at Village la Différence

The Carnival was a great success; thousands of residents participated following the rhythm of “rara” (bands with traditional instruments), while children celebrate until the middle of the night.

### ***Vocational training center***

The opening ceremony for the training center built and managed by Korean foundation (World Diaconia) took place in March with the presence of many authorities of the region.

This center provides informatics classes for the Industrial Park workers. Soon, other fields of study will be proposed, including English language courses. The space also has a church, a kitchen and a dormitory for teachers.



Opening ceremony of the professional school (World Diaconia)

## **Social and Economic Capacity Building**

### ***Livelihoods***

DFS Construction, the firm which provided construction training for 40 residents last year, was selected by USAID for site repair. The firm previously recruited 11 residents to work in the village as unskilled workers to do the repairs. Another firm specialized in construction, DSS, recruited 2 residents for the building of a bridge (after the flooding of February) at the back of the Village.

### ***Women’s Association Activities***

As mentioned in the previous report, out of 56 women trained by INDEPCO (Institut National pour le Développement et la Promotion de la Couture) in sewing, 41 women graduated in November. The training lasted three months and was implemented in partnership with RTI, which is implementing the USAID LEVE program. After the three months of training, Global Communities facilitated the job placement for 14 of these graduates in the industrial park. Throughout this quarter, Industrial Park expressed a need for qualified workers in the field of industrial sewing. INDEPCO recommended 11 qualified women to Industrial Park and they began work immediately. Through INDEPCO, 11 women were recommended and began to work immediately.

## **Challenges**

Global Communities and EPPLS experienced extensive sewage and water issues while waiting for the beginning of the repair work by DFS Construction.

In February, because of heavy rains *Village la Difference* was flooded twice.

## ***Private and Public Partnership***

An intensive communication was made this quarter to reach all of the people working in the area to rent a residential plot. Informative meetings on site, site visits took place and 52 interested people attended those meetings. Among them two people rented a plot of 300 square meters. 17 other people were registered to rent a plot but did not pay yet. Also, INDEPCO expressed interest in having a new space to conduct their trainings.

## **Activities planned for next quarter:**

- Allocation of remaining commercial spaces in the small market (two were already allocated, including a water supply and a restaurant)
- Host PACE trainings for newly elected officials and mobilization team
- Host technical trainings for platform committees and commissions
- Solve sewage and technical problems
- Attribute empty plots for private residences
- Ensure clear communication between the residents and DFS Construction
- Sensitize residents to pay water and rent